

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Claims 1-37 (canceled)

1 38. (new) A slider having optimized crown or camber curvature prepared from  
2 substrate material having an air-bearing side and a flex side, prepared by a process  
3 using a laser which produces a pulsed laser beam, the process comprising:

4 (A) applying the laser beam to the flex side of the substrate material; and  
5 (B) varying the fluence of the laser beam to optimize the curvature in the  
6 substrate material.

1 39. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein fluence is  
2 controllably varied by changing the power output of the laser.

1 40. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein fluence is  
2 controllably varied by changing the spot size of the laser beam.

1 41. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 40, wherein the spot size of  
2 the laser beam is varied by changing the position of the substrate material relative  
3 to the focal plane of the laser beam.

1 42. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 40, wherein the spot size is  
2 controllably varied by changing the position of the focal plane of the laser beam  
3 relative to the substrate material.

1 43 (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 42, wherein the focal plane  
2 of the laser is moved relative to the substrate material by using at least one  
3 focusing lens which is attached to a movable mount.

1 44. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein the laser beam  
2 is conditioned with a beam expander that has adjustable beam expansion.

1 45. (new) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein the substrate  
2 material is one or more rows of sliders, which are then separated to produce  
3 individual sliders.